STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0049760-05-0

Permittee: Village of Poplar, PO Box 137, Poplar, WI, 54864

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Village of Poplar, 10435E Bayfield Road, Poplar Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Unnamed Tributary to Bardon Creek within the Amnicon and Middle Rivers Watershed in the Lake Superior Drainage Basin in Douglas County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Village of Poplar wastewater treatment facility serves a population of approximately 350 with no significant industrial contributors. The annual average design flow is 57,000 gallons per day with actual flows averaging 50,000 gallons per day over the past five years (2014 – 2018). Treatment consists of an inclined screen which removes debris before it enters the first aerated (air added) lagoon. The lagoon is covered and divided into two cells by a floating baffle (cells 1 and 2). The wastewater flows from cell 2 to the second covered aerated lagoon which is also split into two cells (3 and 4). From cell 4 the waste flows to a third covered lagoon that is partially-aerated (cell 5) then to a covered un-aerated settling lagoon (cell 6). In each lagoon naturally occurring bacteria already in the wastewater treat the waste stream by breaking down the organic matter. The effluent from the settling lagoon is routed through a polishing reactor for effluent aeration which reduces BOD and ammonia levels. The effluent from the polishing reactor flows by gravity through an effluent sampling manhole and then to the outfall (an unnamed tributary to Bardon Creek).

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be December 31, 2024. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit. Changes from the previous permit include: Proposed Phosphorus Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for phosphorus is needed in this permit to protect water quality. As allowed under s. 283.15, Wis. Stats., Variance to Water Quality Standard the permittee has requested a variance to the phosphorus WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate eligibility for the variance based on applicable factors. The Department concurs with the demonstration; however, this concurrence is subject to US EPA approval before the variance limit may be included in the final reissued permit. In an effort to achieve phosphorus effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department and permittee have mutually agreed upon specific permit conditions that include a variance limitation, monitoring of phosphorus at the frequency described in the permit and submittal of reports on source reduction measures oriented toward attainment of the phosphorus water quality standard. The designated use of the receiving water will not change as a result of the variance.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 Maple Street, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, sheri.snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric Devenecia, DNR, 1701 N 4th St, Superior, WI 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.DeVenecia@Wisconsin.gov

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: November 19, 2019, 10am – 11am, DNR 810 West Maple, Spooner, WI 54801 Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Sheri Snowbank, WDNR 810 West Maple, Spooner, WI 54801, (715)635-4131

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later

than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at:

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Superior Telegram

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 1226 Ogden Avenue, Superior, WI 54880-1584

Date Notice Issued: Tuesday, September 10, 2019